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12 March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Year 11 GCSE Maths

I'm writing to inform you of some of the important information about the Maths GCSE. As a result of the recent parents evening, I feel it would be helpful to share with you the answers to the most popular queries so that you can best support your son/daughter as we approach the GCSE Maths exam.

By the time to get this letter, the year 11s will be in the middle of their March PPE (pre-public exams) and we will use these to guide us in filling in gaps and preparing students to sit the external exams in May/June. Students who do not meet the expected grade at this stage in year 11 will be required to re-sit the mock exams after school after Easter. There are only a few weeks left as we count down to the exam that now measures 11 years of Maths learning in 3 papers.

Below, I have outlined what we are doing in class and in school and what students should be doing at home for Maths. This, I believe, is the formula for success for GCSE Maths:

List of what we are doing in school	List of what students are expected to do at home
Students are fully aware of the importance of being fully equipped in lessons: books, diaries, highlighters, pens, pencils, rulers, green pens and calculators. Every lesson.	All students have a PiXL Maths App login The school ID: EP219 Student password: SMITHJ (e.g. for Joe Smith) It is not necessary to use this App on phones but the idea is to revise and repeat for long term memory.
Lessons consist of starters that recap topics and skills. The main part of the lesson is either a topic yet to be covered or a revisit to topics that students have requested or shown gaps in during their mocks Exam questions are being used to make sure students can apply the work to exam questions.	We are using the Collins textbook 4 th edition for Exam board: EDEXCEL course code: 1MA1 Students can access this online using: name of school, DOB, first letter of surname and Year group.
There is a greater emphasis on literacy and key vocabulary in the Maths exam papers; students must read the exam questions carefully and follow each instruction. Therefore, we have issued past papers during each holiday for students to experience real exam papers more often.	We encourage students to use mymath.co.uk as a tool to boost their knowledge quickly. Please see the guide on the school website: School login: eps School password: shape Student logins and passwords are unchangeable and is the same since year7.
Every Tuesday, PREP time has been used for Maths and student feedback for this has been very positive. The year group has been divided into 10 groups based on their needs for delivery of content to exam skills. We used the December mock results to help us group the students.	Other websites that students could use: www.Mathsgenie.co.uk/papers www.gcseMathspastpapers.com



Headteacher: Mrs Liz Cook MA, BA(Hons)

<p>Maths GYM after school has been running every Tuesday from 3.10-4.00pm. Teachers are available to help their own class with Homework, with exam papers or with problems from independent revision.</p>	<p>Formula sheets have been glued into books since criss-cross day. Extra copies were issued for home. Students need to be familiar with what they need to memorise and what will not be given in the exam.</p>
<p>All Homework is uploaded onto google classrooms and this is also an excellent place to go if students have been absent. Students should use their school email address to access this.</p>	<p>Students should have 8 or 9 exercise books from this 3-year course. Start by finding these and highlighting main notes. Students will also find it helpful to make corrections and use their contents page to narrow down their revision time.</p>
<p>All students have a CGP workbook with exam style questions and 3 exam papers PLUS solutions.</p>	<p>Students can make revision cue cards and mind-maps to condense each topic in Maths.</p> <p>Numeracy and basic arithmetic skills account for 40% of the questions. Practise these at home!</p>

Our recent student survey shows that students want to be invited to extra Maths support. Here is a time line to the rest of the year for Maths and some important dates for you to get involved with:

Timeline→	3 weeks to Easter break	Easter Holidays 29 March – 15 April	5 weeks of term before paper 1	Paper 1 Thurs 24 May 9.00am 90mins Non - Calculator	May half term 28 May – 1 June	Paper 2 Thurs 7 June 9.00am 90mins Calculator	Paper 3 Tue 12 June 9.00am 90mins Calculator
Dates to opt into →	Sat 17 March Revision day 10.00am - 2.00pm 11M3/11M4 £Free	Fri 6 April Revision day 10.00am-3.00pm 11M1/11M2 Y12 and Y13 £Free	Aim for grade 5 revision day Mon 30 April Birmingham (only 15 places)	Workshop 1 the day before (compulsory)		Workshop 2 the day before (compulsory)	Workshop 3 the day before (compulsory)

Any extra support provided out of lessons is to be seen as extra provision and we would hope that one method does not replace the other. This is in recognition of the fact that students need to be working hard both in class and at home and using the extra provision as a top-up of what they are already doing.

Whilst most students are working really hard and taking full advantage of the extra provision, we are still waiting for some students to commit to the after school support and show us evidence of work at home. We would like to think that at this late stage, all students are putting in equal if not more effort than the teachers to really push for their own target grades.

Looking ahead into year 12, some students may need to re-sit their GCSE exam but it is worth knowing that 6 lessons a fortnight are reduced down to 3. Students will be expected to be much more independent when repeating the course in just 1. *Additionally, if your child has opted to do A' level Maths with us, there will be a 3-day bringing course for Maths on Tuesday 26 – Wednesday 28 June. Please ensure that you do not book holidays during this time as this is a compulsory part of embarking the A' level Maths course as EPCS.*

GCSE exam entries have been made for the summer and the deadline for this was January. Students in 11m1 and 2 have been entered at higher tier (grade 9-3) and groups 11m3 and 4 in for foundation (grade 5-1). To this end, we have got separate revision programs that we are able to offer students based on their tier of entry or their target grade. See the table above to help you.

Please complete and return the reply slip below by the end of Thursday 15 March. Please read it carefully so we can quickly administer the choices and get the correct support in place with staffing and site access.

Maths is a marathon, not a sprint. This has been our moto in the department; to show students that Maths needs prolonged training and commitment for the optimal outcome. I hope that the training and coaching detailed above gives you some guidance in how to best support your son/daughter at home from now until June.

Yours sincerely



Ms P Devine
Head of Mathematics

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Reply Slip – Please return to Ms Devine, Room 81 or email reply to preeti.devine@epschool.org by end of Thursday 15 March 2018
Year 11 Maths GCSE

Student name: **Maths Teacher:** **Maths Group:**

I would / would not like to attend Saturday 17 March 2018, from 10.00am - 12.00pm (only for set 3 and 4).

I would / would not like to attend Friday 6 April 2018, from 10.00am - 2.30pm (only for set 1 and 2).

As well as one of the above, I would / would not like to attend Monday 30 April conference in Birmingham (there will be a cost for this) and want to know more.

Signed: **Date:**

Emergency contact for revision days: